Monitoring of children's right to education

2543. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to set up special cell to monitor children's right to education; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Section 31 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, or, as the case may be, the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights constituted under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, shall perform the functions relating to the monitoring of child's right to free and compulsory education provided by or under the above mentioned Act regarding Right to Education. Section 33 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 also provides for constitution of National Advisory Council, whose function would be to advise the Central Government on implementation of the provision of the Act in an effective manner.

Minimum marks for JEE

2544. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the protests organized by Students' Unions across the country regarding change in the minimum marks required for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) from 60 to 80 per cent in class XII; and

(b) the reaction of Government regarding this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Joint Admission Board (JAB), which consists of representatives from all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad and Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU) as well as a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, makes recommendations in respect of matters relating to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). A Review Committee has been set up by the JAB to give its recommendations regarding factoring in of class XII results on a percentile basis while deciding admissions into IITs. Integrating class XII results with JEE results will help reduce dependence on coaching centres. Further, variation in the results of various Boards would be taken care of by following the cut-off marks on percentile basis. As the idea is yet to crystallise, it is too early to expect any reaction in concrete terms.

Launch of science channel by IGNOU

2545. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IGNOU is launching a science channel to educate and create awareness among the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken particularly for rural students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University has started the Test Transmission of Science Channel on 23.12.2008 on Gyan Darshan (GD-2). The transmission includes programmes produced by IGNOU and also Department of Science & Technology (DST). The channel aims to share knowledge and develop a scientific temper in the public and improve the teaching and reseach of the sciences. The programmes cater to the needs of viewers of both metro and non-metro regions. Initially, the programmes are in English and Hindi. This channel is also available on Direct to Home (DTH) platform of Door Darshan (DD) Direct Plus and Dish TV.

Seats for disadvantaged children in minority schools

2546. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is unwilling to let minority schools off the hook when it comes to setting aside 25 per cent of seats for disadvantaged children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides for the following responsibilities of schools:

(i) schools which are established, owned or controlled by the appropriate Government, or a local authority shall provide free and compulsory elementary education to all children admitted therein.

(ii) schools receiving aid or grants to meet whole or part of its expenses from the appropriate Government or local authority shall provide free and compulsory elementary education to such proportion of children admitted therein as its annual recurring aid or grants so received bears to its annual recurring expenses, subject to a minimum of 25%.

(iii) schools belonging to 'specified category' as defined in section 2 (p) of the Act, and unaided school shall admit in class I to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker 'Section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory elementary education till its completion.

Charging of exorbitant fee by schools

2547. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: